



## NAHLN Information Card

### NAHLN Laboratory Designations

There are many levels of laboratory participation within the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). The term “core laboratories” was used to designate the original 12 laboratories that participated in the NAHLN. As participation in the network has expanded since 2002, a system to define laboratory designations was needed to reduce confusion among stakeholders.

The laboratory designation system was created to reflect different levels of infrastructure support for emergency response preparation as well as funding for surveillance testing. Each level of laboratory participation is vital to the function and capacity of the NAHLN for early disease detection, surveillance, and surge-and-recovery testing in response to disease outbreaks. Additional infrastructure support is necessary to expand the number of participating laboratories. The goal is comprehensive coverage of the U.S. livestock industry.

Four designations are used to describe participation in the NAHLN: Core Member Laboratories and Member Laboratories (receive infrastructure support), Contract Member Laboratories, and Adjunct Member Laboratories. The first three categories all participate in active surveillance (fee-for-testing) programs. Laboratories in all four categories have successfully completed the NAHLN approval checklist and quality-assurance requirements, and each laboratory has personnel trained and proficiency-tested to conduct the approved NAHLN diagnostic assays.

#### Contact Information:

National Animal Health Laboratory Network

Phone: 515-663-7731

E-mail: [NAHLN@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:NAHLN@aphis.usda.gov)

***NAHLN, a State and Federal partnership to safeguard  
animal health.***

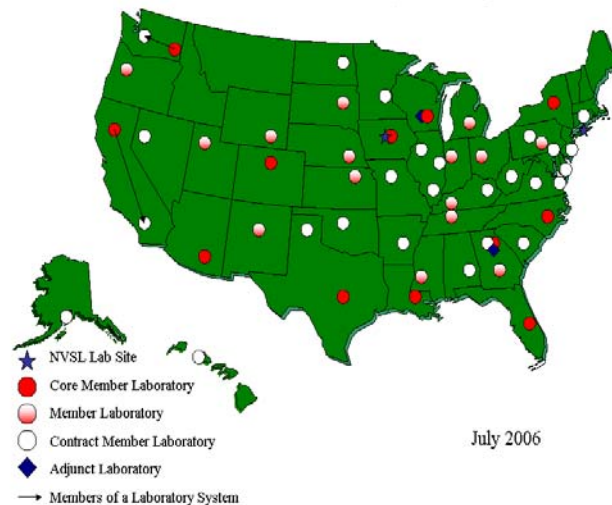
A **Core Member Laboratory** receives significant infrastructure support and also conducts fee-for-service testing for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). This group of laboratories currently includes the original 12 laboratories. Their funding level enables them to be fully committed to the NAHLN mission and able to respond to domestic or foreign animal disease emergencies on a 24/7 basis.

A **Member Laboratory** receives limited annual infrastructure support from USDA for specific purposes such as establishing IT connections or developing capacity for data-reporting. These laboratories also conduct fee-for-service testing. 16 laboratories currently in this group could move to the **Core Member** category as USDA funds become available to provide the significant annual infrastructure support needed to reach the **Core Member** category.

A **Contract Member Laboratory** performs ONLY fee-for-service testing for control of specific animal diseases. These laboratories can move into either the **Member** or **Core Member** category as USDA funding levels enable infrastructure support.

An **Adjunct Member Laboratory** is considered a member of the NAHLN because of its implementation of NAHLN protocols, but its primary mission is not domestic animal disease diagnostic work within the United States.

NAHLN Laboratory Funding



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